

REMARKS

A statement that the present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP03/03862 has been added immediately after the TITLE.

Claims 8, 11, and 12 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies to conform with U.S. practice and to minimize filing fees.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite "A process for the production of a carboxylic acid and/or its lactone ..." to better conform with U.S. practice. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 14-25; page 2, lines 23-27; and page 2, line 32 - page 3, line 19; in Examples 1-3; and in original claim 13. See *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l) (8th ed., Rev. 2, May 2004, pp. 600-73 and 600-81 to 600-82)

Claims 14 and 15 have been added to present subject matter previously presented in multiple dependent form in claim 8. Support for these claims is found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 14-25; page 2, lines 8-27; page 2, line 32 - page 3, line 25; and page 9, line 1 - page 10, line 25; in Examples 1-3; and in original claim 8. See *Id.*

Claims 16-18 have been added to present subject matter previously presented in multiple dependent form in claim 11. Support for these claims is found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 14-25; page 2, lines 8-27; page 2, line 32 - page 3, line 25; and page 9, line 1 - page 10, line 25; in Examples 1-3; and in original claim 11. See *Id.*

Claims 19-22 have been added to present subject matter previously presented in multiple dependent form in claim 12. Support for these claims is found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 14-25; page 2, lines 8-27; page 2, line 32 - page 3, line 25; and page 9, line 1 - page 10, line 25; in Examples 1-3; and in original claim 12. *See Id.*

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments. Approval and entry of the amendments is respectfully solicited.

Favorable action on the merits including entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits and allowance of all the claims, respectfully, is requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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